

one was in fine condition but not fat. His stomach contained walnut shells, honeycomb, a wasp's nest, some bees and wasps, grubs and a good many pieces of bone.

SRINAGAR, KASHMIR.  
December 30, 1943.

G. DE LA P. BERESFORD,  
Major General.

#### V.—BREEDING SEASON OF THE INDIAN SAMBAR.

Throughout the great mass of the Central part of the Indian Peninsula the rut takes place in the end of November or early in December.

With an animal so widely distributed as the Sambar, living under diverse conditions, one would expect departures from this normality, but not anything, so diverse, as that reported by Mr. Simon in his letter of January 21, 1943 (*Journ. B. N. H. S.*, Vol. xliv, No. 1, p. 118).

From that letter one gathers, that the antlers are shed in May, and breeding takes place in late June, and early July: this means that the rut takes place while the stag's horns are still in full velvet. So far as I am aware, this has never occurred in the case of any other deer, anywhere. Apart from the physical condition of the stag at the time, it is a complete negation of one of the main *raison d'etres* of the growth of the horn.

It is notorious that one of the first effects of captivity in a wild animal, is a disarrangement of the sex life, and it is probable that the extraordinary facts, reported by Mr. Simon are merely evidence of this disturbance having occurred, once again.

ELGIN,  
SCOTLAND.

A. A. DUNBAR BRANDER.

November 16, 1943.

#### VI.—THE LARGER DEER OF INDIA: A CORRECTION.

In my paper on the Chital and Hog-Deer published in the issue of this *Journal*, December 1943, there is a misleading error in the explanation of the text figure on p. 170. Fig. D in reality represents the incisiform teeth of a Sambar and C those of a Chital, not the other way about as stated. The very large median and small lateral teeth are of course characteristic of the Chital and Hog-Deer, not of the Sambar and other large deer previously described.

ZOOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT,  
BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY).

February 29, 1944.

R. I. POCOCK.

#### VII.—MALFORMED HORNS OF THE GAUR (*BIBOS GAURUS*).

(With a photo).

We enclose a photograph of a 'Malformed' bison skull, a most interesting specimen, shot by H. H. The Maharaja of Mysore